

Tinselfish

A queer new drama series

How hard can it be to find a room in Los Angeles with housemates who are reasonably sane?

Ask Zeph. A computer-game company relocated him from Philadelphia a few weeks ago, and he's been staying at a motel in a seedy part of Hollywood while looking for a place to live. Call him picky, but he doesn't want a room overrun with cats or a rock band practicing in the living room every night. The room he does come up with, however, is too good to be true. In an upscale house in the Hollywood Hills, the room is elegantly furnished and has a private bath and a balcony overlooking the pool. And it's cheap.

Where's the fine print?

His housemates— not drag queens but ultrasleek gender illusionists— seem okay, if a little obsessed with Old Hollywood. One is a dead-ringer for the young Lauren Bacall. The other looks as if Rita Hayworth just stepped out of *Gilda*. But even before Zeph has moved in, a private detective shows up to question the housemates. And a few nights after Zeph moves in, he's out in the pool when he hears a couple of shots, a quick scream, and two people running away from the house. Were they just sounds from a TV? Or was someone actually shot? Or are his housemates playing a game with him? He goes into the house to see what happened, and he comes upon "Hayworth" in the game room recreating a scene from *The Big Sleep*. Only there's no body on the floor. He goes up to his room, and "Bacall" appears in the doorway recreating a scene from *To Have and Have Not*. That's okay— Zeph's a big fan of *film noir* too. Although he doesn't try to actually *live* the plots. But at work the next day, the detective stops by to ask him a few questions. Zeph learns that "Hayworth" is being blackmailed and that the body of a musician who had been obsessed with her was found under Santa Monica Pier that morning. And that evening, a porn star is shot in the living room.

Does Zeph need to start looking for another room?

The scripts for the fourteen episodes comprising the first season of this gay detective/drama series are completed. The above description is a synopsis of the pilot. The series focuses on the unlikely romantic relationship that develops between the detective— who is about 6', handsome, outgoing, hot-tempered and a native Angeleno— and Zeph— who is about 5'6", shy, brainy, a little on the plain side, and from a rural background. For more information about the characters and subsequent criminal investigations, as well as a trailer and an online game based on the pilot, go to <http://www.carpecranium.com/tinselfish>.

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